



CALL ME A CYNIC!

by
Dick Hanscom

The following article is meant to question blind acceptance of a seller's attribution, and not the legitimacy of the items illustrated.



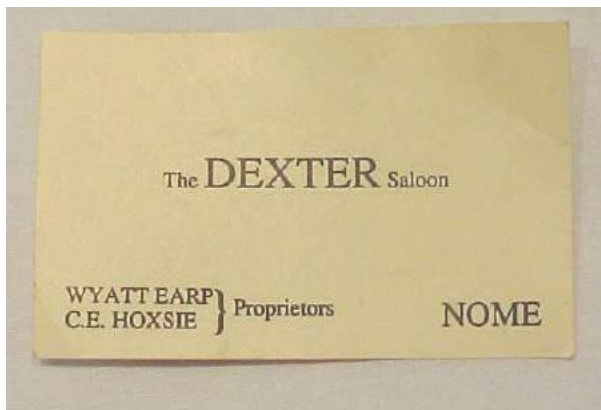
Is it just me or are there more items out there these days that raise serious questions about their legitimacy? In the past, the only item that Alaska collectors had to worry about was the Teller 1/2 bottle of Whiskey token. It is a fun piece, so long as it is not being passed off as a legitimate or rare token. Then, along came the brass "gold" tokens that resembled the Pinch series of Alaska gold.

Recently, it seems like every week there is an Alaska item on eBay that raises an eyebrow. And this is only the Alaska stuff. I am sure that some one searching a broader subject range could fill a book with questionable items (like the brass "whore house" tokens). Now don't get me wrong. I love eBay. I have purchased more "junque" in the last couple of years than in the previous ten! More material is available than ever before.

Illustrated with this article are a few items that caught my attention. The Dexter Saloon chip recently sold for \$685.25. If it is truly legitimate, from Wyatt Earp's saloon, it is a remarkable item. I do not have the expertise to pass judgement. I just have to sit back and wonder. The card below was offered at the same time by a different seller. I have been informed that there are known reproductions, but it is not known if this was one.

The Nushagak dollar is something else again. This one really reaches the limits, I think. A coastal village and cannery site, I really would like to see the documentation of a Gold Rush Saloon there!

I have had collectors make very fanciful claims of attribution for their maverick tokens. After 24 years in the business, I have developed what I consider to be a healthy degree of cynicism. Buyers need to get educated.



EDITORIAL

After the last two issues discussed the Thane Slug, it seems my paranoia is in full swing! The items on the front page are very interesting for different reasons. I recently acquired a token from Tierra del Fuego. I have no reason to believe it is not authentic. My specimen came from Chile, and there are two known in England. Yet, I have that sneaking suspicion. I will present this token and another in a later issue.

This is going to be a quickie issue as I am between trips "outside." Jan and I attended a seminar with Kenton last weekend in Utah. Kenton was brought up from Casa by the Sea in Ensenada, Mexico. We spent some very productive time together. The kids in this seminar, brought from facilities in Jamaica, Mexico, Utah and Montana, were truly awesome, but all have work to do. Best case senario is that he will be able to come home in four to six months. He turns 18 in January, so staying in the program will be a major test of his maturity and integrity. Once again, if you have any questions about this program, or know of a family with a teen in crisis, don't hesitate to call - 907-452-6461.

Then, Friday evening, I leave on my annual religious pilgrimage to Phoenix. We are hopeful that it will stop raining so that we can get in our six games in four days. Some games in the last two weeks have been rained out.

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A NEW NATION!?

Most readers are aware of my affinity for the southern reaches of this planet. South Georgia Island and the South Sandwich Islands are out there on the fringe. Early in the 1900s, South Georgia had a booming whaling industry. So much so that Compania Argentina de Pesca used tokens at their Grytviken station.

About the last place on earth that has a need for coinage is the South Sandwich Islands. The second to the last place is South Georgia Island! Well, it looks as though the Pobjoy Mint has found another way to seperate collectors from their money by promoting another series of non-circulating legal tender. I must even question the legal tender status. Not only do these islands lack a permanent population, tendering them as payment there might be a problem for lack of facilities to do so!

The Pobjoy Mint's track record for producing coins soully for collectors can be seen in the issues of the Isle of Man and Gibraltar (47 and 36 pages respectively in the Krause-Mishler catalogue). Are they going to do the same for South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands?

The first issues note the 100th birthday of the Queen Mother, discovery of South Georgia by Antoine de la Roche (a British born merchant) in 1675, and Capt. James Cook taking possession in 1775. All coins were issued in 2 Pounds (BU cupronickel, Proof sterling silver) and 20 Pounds (Proof 1/5 ounce gold).



Illustrations reduced. Visit Pobjoy mint's website at www.pobjoy.com.

PRICES REALIZED

Below are the prices realized from our auction of October 14th. Bids that were reduced from the high bid are marked with an *. Lots won by mail bidders are indicated by an mb.

Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid
192 Roubles to Statehood	40	240 Petersburg B-3a	90mb*
193 Alaska Encased Cent	26	241 Platinum B-1c	680mb*
194 ARRC tokens	375	242 Quinhagak B-1, a-d	300mb*
195 Anchorage B-13a	225mb*	243 Savoonga, Shishmaref	45
196 Anchorage B-37a	175mb*	244 Seward B-18a	50
197 Anchorage tokens	50	245 Pictorial Native Copper tokens	125
198 Barrow, Bethel, Chichagoff	60mb	246 Sitka B-3b	35
199 Bethel B-2 a and b	50	247 Sitka B-6a	325mb*
200 Bethel B-2d	330mb*	248 Sitka, Skagway, Snug Harbor	60
201 Chatanika B-3, a-c	300mb*	249 Skagway B-2, a and b	40
202 Chisana, Craig, Eek	70	250 Skagway B-3a	226mb
203 Chitina B-4a	90mb*	251 Skagway "Tag"	451mb*
204 Cordova B-22a	240mb*	252 Skagway B-4d	76mb*
205 Douglas B-4a	600mb*	253 Skagway B-4g	355mb*
206 Douglas B-10a	180mb*	254 Skagway unlisted	620mb*
207 Douglas B-30a	350mb*	255 Skagway Board of Trade tokens	100mb*
208 Eagle B-1e	110	256 Skagway B-5a	415mb*
209 Eagle B-1f	330mb*	257 Skagway B-6a	290mb*
210 Ellamar B-1b	290mb*	258 Skagway B-8a	130
211 Excursion Inlet B-1, a-d	32	259 Skagway B-9a	75mb*
212 Excursion Inlet B-1e	50	260 Skagway B-14, a-c	61mb
213 Fairbanks B-14b	190mb*	261 Skagway B-16, a-f	60
214 Fairbanks Encased Cent	90mb*	262 Skagway B-17, a and c	80
215 Fairbanks B-26a	350mb*	263 Skagway B-18a	275mb*
216 Fairbanks B-38a	160	264 Skagway B-20a	340mb*
217 Fairbanks tokens	140	265 Skagway B-20b	325mb*
218 Fort Yukon B-1a	40	266 Skagway B-20d	340mb*
219 Goodnews Bay B-1, a-d	325	267 Skagway B-23a	45mb
220 Haines B-1b	330mb*	268 Skagway tokens	450mb*
221 Haines B-3a	150mb*	269 Snug Harbor, Teller, Thane, Valdez	50
222 Haines B-12a	245mb*	270 Tanana B-11a	210mb*
223 Hawk Inlet B-1a	70	271 Tenakee B-5a	210mb*
224 Juneau tokens	30	272 Tenakee B-5b	75
225 Ketchikan tokens	35	273 Valdez B-2a	175mb*
226 Flat, Kobuk, Kotzebue, etc	80	274 Valdez B-9a	35
227 Koyukuk B-3, a,c,d,e,f	110mb*	275 Yakutat B-2, a-c	475mb*
228 Kwiguk B-1, a-f	60	276 Yakutat B-3d	70
229 Ladd AFB chip	100mb*	277 Yes Bay B-3d	300mb*
230 Latouche B-1a	65	278 Eielson or Elmendorf medal	18mb*
231 McCarthy B-5a	65	279 Tanana Valley Clinic silver bar	40
232 Nenana B-7a	100mb*	280 Large AK Purchase Centennial set	50
233 Nome B-8e	290mb*	281 Fairbanks Cheechako Grubstake 1963	45mb*
234 Nome B-8g	160mb*	282 Fairbanks 2 Pinch 1964	35mb*
235 Nome B-13a	260mb*	283 Ketchikan Elks medal	15
236 Nome B-29a	275mb*	284 Anchorage Medal set	24mb*
237 Nome B-39b	150mb*	285 Juneau Centennial set	30mb*
238 Nome, Noorvik	35	286 Alaska Elongated silver dime	28
239 Noorvik B-1, a-f	70		

Bid reductions totalled \$2688.

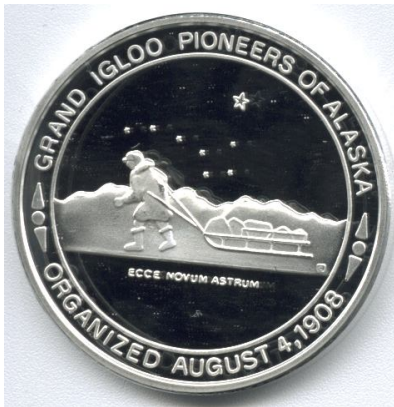
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